

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MONTER 00190 232239Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02

PA-02 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 SCSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 CU-04 SSO-00 /079 W
----- 096086

R 232015Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2350

UNCLAS MONTERREY 0190

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MX

SUBJ: SIX DEAD FOLLOWING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN POLICE AND
INHABITANTS OF SQUATTER SETTLEMENT.

1. A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF
FEBRUARY 18 BETWEEN DWELLERS OF TIERRA Y LIBERTAD (ONE OF
MONTERREY'S URBAN SQUATTER COMMUNITIES) AND POLICE UNITS OF
THE PROTECCION CIUDADANA LEFT SIX DEAD, FIVE WOUNDED
(INCLUDING TWO POLICEMEN), AND SOME TWENTY TO THIRTY POSESIONA-
RIOS DETAINED BY THE AUTHORITIES. LATER IN THE DAY A PROTEST
MARCH BY AN ESTIMATED FIVE THOUSAND SQUATTER COMMUNITY
INHABITANTS (AND THEIR EAGER STUDENT ALLIES) DISRUPTED TRAFFIC
IN THE CENTER OF TOWN AND DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE
GOVERNOR'S PALACE, CLAMORING FOR THE RESIGNATION OF GOV.
ZORRILLA AND CASTIGATING POLICE OFFICIAL JUAN URRUTIA PAURA
AS "A COWARDLY ASSASSIN WHO SHOT US DOWN LIKE DOGS".

2. THE DEMONSTRATORS DEMANDED JUSTICE, SPECIFICALLY: (A)
FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD; (B)
IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL FREEDOM OF ALL DETAINED
POSESIONARIOS; (C) PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT OF THE
WOUNDED; (D) INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF ALL OF THEIR
COMRADES WHO REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR; (E) JAIL SENTENCES

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MONTER 00190 232239Z

FOR ALL OFFICIALS AND POLICE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

SHOOTINGS; (F) DISMISSAL FROM THEIR POSTS OF THE "INTELLECTUAL" AUTHORS OF THE MASSACRE; AND (G) REMOVAL OF ALL POLICE ELEMENTS FROM THE SQUATTER COMMUNITIES.

3. GOVERNOR ZORRILLA IMMEDIATELY TERMED THE INCIDENT AS "TRAGIC AND LAMENTABLE", AND HAS PROMISED A FULL INVESTIGATION, REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE OF FEDERAL AUTHORITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE QUOTE TO GUARANTEE IMPARTIALITY UNQUOTE. HE ALSO AUTHORIZED INDEMNITY PAYMENTS TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD, PUBLIC FUNDS TO PAY ALL FUNERAL EXPENSES AND PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CARE FOR THE INJURED.

4. THE VIOLENCE CULMINATED A WEEK OF RISING TENSION WITHIN TIERRA Y LIBERTAD, WHOSE INHABITANTS (MOSTLY RURAL MIGRANTS, MANY FROM OTHER STATES) WERE OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO EXTEND WATER, SEWER AND ELECTRIC POWER SERVICES INTO THE AREA. (THE POSESIONARIOS FEARED NOT ONLY THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS BUT THAT THROUGH THESE PUBLIC PROJECTS THEY WOULD GRADUALLY COME UNDER THE EFFECTIVE JURISDICTION AND CONTROL OF MUNICIPAL AND STATE ENTITIES.) IN FACT, THE SPARK THAT TOUCHED OFF WEDNESDAY'S BLOODY FIGHT WAS THE EFFORT BY POLICE TO APPREHEND POSESIONARIOS WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE OR DESTROY PIPES, POSTS, CABLES AND OTHER MATERIALS AT A UTILITY CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY.

5. MOST EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS CONDEMNED THE POLICE FOR OVERREACTING IN THE SITUATION AND RESPONDING TO HURLED ROCKS AND INSULTS WITH GUNFIRE. THE NEWSPAPER "EL NORTE", IN LINE WITH ITS LONG-STANDING CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE POLICE, STATED ON ITS FRONT PAGE THAT "THE POSESIONARIS, HERETOFORE VIEWED AS DELINQUENTS, APPEAR NOW AS MARTYRS IN PUBLIC OPINION, DUE TO THE BAD IMAGE OF THE GUARDIANS OF LAW AND ORDER. THOSE TRULY CULPABLE OF THE MASSACRE... ARE THE HUNDREDS OF POLICE WHO DAILY, WITH THEIR SMALL AND LARGE ABUSES, HAVE EARNED THE ANTIPATHY AND CONTEMPT OF THE POPULACE..."

6. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER GOVERNOR ZORRILLA'S GESTURES TOWARD THE POSESIONARIOS AND THE PROMISED QUOTE IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION UNQUOTE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO DEFUSE THIS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION. THE SQUATTERS' LEADERS HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED SEVERAL QUOTE CAMPAMENTOS UNQUOTE OF THEIR FOLLOWERS IN VARIOUS PLAZAS OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MONTER 00190 232239Z

MONTERREY, AND HAVE THREATENED TO EXTEND THIS FORM OF PROTEST IF THE GOVERNOR DOES NOT MOVE TO FULLY AND QUICKLY MEET THEIR DEMANDS. A MARCH THROUGH THE CITY IS BEING PLANNED FOR THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 24 TO HONOR QUOTE THE MARTYRS OF FEBRUARY 18 UNQUOTE; ORGANIZERS ARE PREDICTING 30,000 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING (BESIDES THE POSESIONARIOS) MEMBERS OF THE CTM'S SINDICATO DE MINEROS SECCION 68 (CURRENTLY ON STRIKE AGAINST FUNDIDORA SUBSIDIARY ACEROS PLANOS), OTHER

WORKER UNITS, CAMPESINOS, AND STUDENTS FROM UANL, GUADALAJA-
RA, SALTILLO, POLITECNICO DE MEXICO, UANM, AND OTHER
SCHOOLS.
LAMBERT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, SQUATTERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONTER00190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760068-0265
From: MONTERREY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760223/aaaaauds.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIX DEAD FOLLOWING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN POLICE AND INHABITANTS OF SQUATTER SETTLEMENT.
TAGS: PINS, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006